

Science Notes

BY WILLIAM G. HAYNES.

"NOSING" INTO SCIENCE.

"Follow your nose" is a good maxim when the practice of it is tempered with an abundant exercise of good judgment. Otherwise, one is open to the accusation of promiscuously "nosing around." Nevertheless, nosing into the business of the manufacturer of perfumes and essential oils may prove a most pleasant and interesting experience. Before doing this, it will be profitable to examine "the thing that smells most in a perfume factory—as well as in a glue factory."

The nose, yes, your nose, too, is always before our eyes, and yet we see so little of it. Still less do most of us know about the mechanism of that most prominent portion of our physiognomies. Contrary to common belief, the entire inner lining of the nose is not sensitive to particles that arouse the sensation of smell. In the air passage there is a small area adapted to this one purpose. When air is drawn up through the nostrils it takes with it invisible particles, technically called effluvia. These effluvia strike against the "smell area" and stimulate the nerve endings which are located there. This stimulation is carried to the brain and we have the sensation of smell.

Quite often the remark is made that a person "gets used to" an odor after smelling it for a long period of time. This simply means that the small particles have struck against the "smell area" so long that the nerves have become exhausted from the continual effort to transmit the stimulations. Fatigued as they are, the nerves are unable to carry the message to the brain, and the person temporarily loses the power to detect that particular odor. This accounts for the fact that a flower seems to lose its fragrance when one holds it close to one's nose and smells it for a long time. It also accounts for the fact that a person coming in from outdoors immediately detects the unwholesome atmosphere of a room, while the person who has been in the room for an hour or so is totally unaware of the foul odor in the air.

In animals the sense of smell is much more highly developed than in man, and that is saying a great deal, as we shall soon see.

The manufacture of synthetic perfumes is so large an industry that space here is inadequate for even a brief description of the processes involved in it, but it is quite fitting to note the rapid strides made in this field during the past few years, nearly every flower odor having been so successfully imitated that only the nose of the expert can distinguish the natural product from the artificial.

Here is where the nose does its most reliable work. Quite often the odor of a perfume is seriously altered by the mere trace of an impurity, a trace so small that it is beyond detection by chemical means. In this case, purity is dependent upon the olfactory test, the test of smell. Some idea of the delicacy of this test may be gained from the fact that it has been found that air containing one twenty-three billionth of a milligram of mercaptan to the cubic centimeter could be detected.

Approximately, a milligram is represented by the weight of the head of an ordinary pin. One twenty-three

billionth part of that is approximately represented by—well, best by a very lively imagination. Mercaptan, the substance referred to above, is simply a chemical compound noted for its characteristic odor, which is somewhat similar to that of putrid sauerkraut.

This is but one of the many examples that could be cited to show the sensitiveness of the olfactory nerve. To a perfectly good nose possessing this high degree of development, the common expression that someone "smells a mouse" is about equivalent to saying that someone can smell an elephant, or a goat, the inability to do which would be a disgrace to any self-respecting human nose.

"WEIGHTED" LEATHER.

If asked to recommend substances to be used fraudulently to give weight to cheap leather, probably no one would think of suggesting sugar or Epsom Salts; yet, according to Bulletin 165 of the United States agricultural department's bureau of chemistry, these are the "weighting" materials most generally found, the sugar being used in the form of glucose. Says the Lancet (London, October 2), commenting on this fact:

"It would be thought that the least desirable materials to give weight to leather would be soluble substances, for the moment such leather is exposed to wet weather these substances would dissolve and weaken the tough and waterproof qualities of the material. We do not know whether the weighting of leather with soluble compounds is practiced to any extent in this country. We imagine not, but this clearly occurs in the United States. * * * Tanners state that leather is loaded with foreign materials because the boot and shoe makers will buy only the lower-priced leather which, to use a trade expression, 'cuts to advantage'—that is, a leather from which the greatest number of soles can be cut at the lowest cost a pair. Approximately 63 per cent of the leathers examined were weighted with glucose or Epsom salts, or, both. This loading varies from 1 to 7.5 with an average of 3 per cent of Epsom salts, and up to 10.4 with an average of 5.5 per cent of glucose, amounting to a total maximum loading, when both are present, of 16 per cent and an average of 8 per cent. The loading process often makes the leather hard, brittle and liable to crack, and, when the soluble loading washes out, the leather is more easily penetrated by water. In short, this weighting trick tends to destroy those very essential properties of leather for which it is trusted. Our boots and shoes, while supple and yielding, should be waterproof. The menace to the health and comfort of the wearer of loaded leather is obvious, and the practice is most reprehensible. Imagine such leather in the trenches, while its use in any circumstances is full of risk to the soldier's well-being. Those in charge of our military contracts will be advised to take note of this new attack of the adulterator."—Literary Digest.

ST. PAUL BARS "THE BIRTH OF A NATION"

Minneapolis, Minn., Nov. 14.—Following close on the decision in the Hennepin county district court, which resulted in stopping the production of "The Birth of a Nation" at the Shubert theater, the St. Paul city commission revoked the license for

the presentation of the film there.

"The Birth of a Nation" had been showing at the St. Paul Auditorium for two weeks. When the license was issued there was a promise to cut out certain features that were objected to by Negroes. These objectionable features were not cut out, according to members of the St. Paul commission.

It was on the ground of a violation of the promises made that the film was barred in St. Paul.

OLD FOLKS' HOME FUND.

No one is authorized to solicit for The Monitor's Old Folks' Home fund. Contributions must be sent or brought to the office of The Monitor. A receipt on a printed form will be given to each contributor. His name and the amount will be published in our columns. As soon as \$100 is received it will be turned over to the treasurer of the Negro Women's Christian association to be paid on the property, and a copy of the receipt from the treasurer and from the real estate agent to whom payment is made will be published in this paper.

Acknowledgments.

Nov. 1., E. W. Pryor.....\$5.00

MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY TO MRS. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

Through the pastors of the several colored church of the city the colored citizens of Omaha Monday sent the following message of sympathy to the widow of Booker T. Washington, the Negro educator.

"In the name of the colored citizens of Omaha we extend heartfelt sympathy. Thank God for your husband's life. Not only our race and America, but the civilized world mourns with you."

BISHOP AND MRS. JOHN HURST CELEBRATE SILVER WEDDING

Baltimore, Md., Nov. 19.—Bishop and Mrs. John Hurst, who celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of their marriage a few days ago, continue to receive gifts in silver from all parts of the country. The gifts, which were numerous and costly, embrace nearly every specimen of the silversmith's art. The anniversary was attended by a brilliant throng from this and other cities.

Bishop and Mrs. Hurst were married by Bishop B. F. Lee, of the African Methodist Episcopal church. The late Hon. Hannibal Price, at that time Maritain minister to the United States, performed the civil ceremony. They have one son, Beneni Price Hurst, a senior in the medical school of Harvard university.

OF INTEREST TO OMAHANS.

Huntington Beach, Cal., Nov. 19.—Mrs. Cassells has returned to her home at Huntington Beach from a four weeks' visit with friends in the north. In Oakland Mrs. Cassells was the guest of Mrs. Alexander Turner; in Richmond, the guest of Mrs. S. C. Rogers. A delightful feature of the visit was a reunion of eighteen former Omahans, almost all of whom had done three of the eastern exhibitions together.

Rube Foster's American Giants are running away with the teams on the Pacific coast, in the winter league. The time is not far distant when the fans will wake up to the fact that Negroes can play just as much ball as any one else when given the chance.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

RATES—1½ cents a word for single insertions, 1 cent a word for two or more insertions. No advertisement for less than 15c. Cash should accompany advertisement.

FOR RENT—HOUSES

FURNISHED ROOMS FOR RENT.

Furnished rooms for rent, modern, reasonable, for men only. 2809 Cuming St. Hubert Thompson.

Modern furnished rooms, 1819 Izard street. Tyler 2519.

Nicely furnished rooms with hot and cold water, \$1.50 and up per week. Close to car line. Mrs. Hayes, 1826 North 23rd street. W. 5639.

FOR SALE—REAL ESTATE

\$15 down, \$10 a little later, then \$6 winter and \$9 summer will buy 3-room house and two lots for garden, chickens, etc.; 2 blocks to school, 5 blocks to car. Call 507 Paxton block.

Mrs. L. M. Bentley-Webster, first class modern furnished rooms, 1702 N. 26th St. Phone Webster 4769.

Nicely furnished rooms for respectable lady; private family; home privileges with board if desired. Web. 7881.

FOR SALE—MISCELLANEOUS.

FOR SALE—An eight-room house, strictly modern, 2722 North 30th St. Terms. Webster 3602.

If you have anything to dispose of, a Want Ad in The Monitor will sell it.

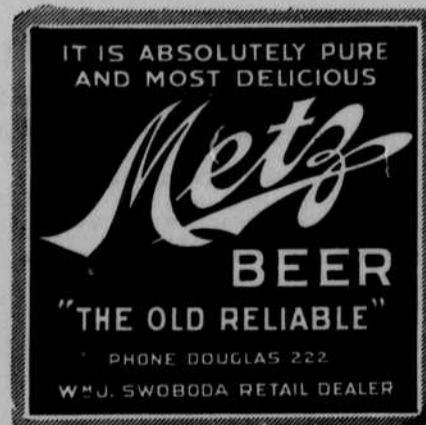
WANTED.

Respectable young widow woman wants position as housekeeper. Will exchange references. Mrs. Esters. Call Harney 6385.

Barber Wanted—Good position for the right man. Apply 1918 Cuming.

Mason, also carpenter, all around repair man; jobs on hand for each to pay down payment or rent on good small home or lot that I have for you. Address at once. Call 507 Paxton block.

WANTED—Correspondents and subscription solicitors for The Monitor in Nebraska cities and towns.



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